

Appln. No. 09/996,986  
Preliminary Amendment  
filed May 6, 2004

**REMARKS**

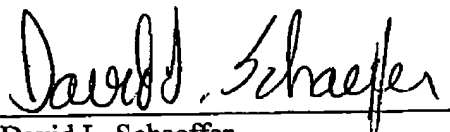
Claims 1-61 are pending in this application. By this Preliminary Amendment claims 5-7 and 36-38 have been revised slightly to eliminate improper multiple dependencies<sup>1</sup>. Claims 1, 18, 19, 32 and 49 remain independent.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this application are respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be owed in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of this application is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any questions, or should additional information be required, please contact applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Schaeffer  
Registration No. 32,716  
Attorney for Applicants  
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan LLP  
180 Maiden Lane  
New York, New York 10038  
(212) 806-6660

---

<sup>1</sup> Since this case is a reissue application, the claims have been amended using the procedure specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(b), as is required by 37 C.F.R. 1.121(h). Only the revised claims have been presented, and all changes have been made with respect to the claims in the issued patent.